



PROTECTED B

For information

UPDATE ON THE CANADA-CUBA MIGRATION TALKS

For the Minister

ISSUE

To inform you of the developments of the fourth round of the Canada-Cuba Migration Talks, as well as the intended way forward. The Canada-Cuba Migration Talks and negotiations of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on migratory matters were hosted by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) on August 28 and 29, 2019.

BACKGROUND

The Canadian delegation, co-led by Ms. Kathy Thompson, Vice President, Strategic Policy Branch, CBSA and Mr. Jacques Cloutier, Vice President, Intelligence and Enforcement Branch, CBSA, hosted the Cuban delegation led by H.E Ambassador Ernesto Soberón Guzmán, Director General of the Division of Consular Affairs and Cuban Residents Abroad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Her Excellency Josefina Vidal Ferreiro, Cuban Ambassador to Canada, was also present at the meeting.

Canada and Cuba enjoy a broad and diverse relationship built on a long history of mutually beneficial engagement, important and growing economic and commercial relations, and strong people-to-people ties across a wide range of sectors and interests. Cuba is the fifth most popular overseas destination for Canadians and Canada is Cuba's largest source of tourists, with over one million Canadians visiting annually (more than 30 percent of all visitors to Cuba).

The CBSA enjoys a positive bilateral relationship with Cuba including through two Liaison Officers stationed in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, who are responsible for Cuba.

Cuba can only issue a travel document to persons who have left Cuba legally and have not been outside of Cuba for more than 24 months, as per their legislation.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

NEXT STEPS

Please note that I am available to discuss, or have CBSA officials brief your staff, at your convenience.

John Ossowski

President

c.c.: Ms. Gina Wilson, Deputy Minister
Public Safety Canada